Mr. V. Achyuta Menon.—May I know how long the tanks referred to in (a) and (b) have been under the Panchayat Department?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—They have been under the Panchayat ever since the Panchayat was formed at Irinjalakkuda.

Mr. V. Achyuta Menon.—How many years?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Seven years.

Sugar factory in the State.

130. **Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Government has ever considered the advisability of starting a sugar factory in the State ;

(b) if so, with what result ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) Just now there is no scope for a sugar factory. Before starting a Sugarcane Factory in the State the area under sugarcane cultivation has to be extended and with this idea in view, Government is considering the question of establishing sugarcane stations along with the opening of Demonstration Farms in the State.

Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—May I know when this matter was considered by the Government and whether any specific orders have been passed?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—It has been under consideration for the last 4 or 5 years and it was referred to the Economic Development Board.

Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—Is it under the consideration of the Economic Development Board even now?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—No. The recommendations of the Economic Development Board was considered by the Government and found that it was not possible to have a sugar factory. There was no scope for a sugar factory.

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